

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

NEARBY SYSTEMS LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

DOLLAR GENERAL CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 2:24-cv-00229

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff Nearby Systems LLC (“Nearby Systems” or “Plaintiff”) files this complaint against Dollar General Corporation (“Dollar General” or “Defendant”) alleging, based on its own knowledge as to itself and its own actions, and based on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a patent infringement action to stop Defendant’s infringement of the following United States Patents (the “Asserted Patents”) issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”), copies of which are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, **Exhibit B**, and **Exhibit C**:

	U.S. Patent No.	Title
A.	9,532,164	Mashing Mapping Content Displayed On Mobile Devices
B.	10,469,980	Mashing Mapping Content Displayed On Mobile Devices
C.	11,937,145	Mashing Mapping Content Displayed On Mobile Devices

2. Nearby Systems seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is a limited liability company formed under the laws of Texas with its registered office address located in Austin, Texas.

4. Defendant is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Tennessee.

5. Defendant has its principal place of business at 100 Mission Ridge, Goodlettsville, TN 37072.

6. Defendant can be served through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, at the following registered service address: 2908 Poston Ave Nashville, TN 37203.

7. Defendant maintains many locations at which it operates its businesses in Texas¹ and in this District that are the subject of this patent infringement case, including, but not limited to: 1506 W Grand Ave, Marshall, TX 75670; 624 E End Blvd S, Marshall, TX 75670; 9646 Hwy 59 N, Marshall, TX 75670; 496 W Main St., Hallsville, TX 75650; 1404 Mccann Rd, Longview, TX 75601; 1400 S High St, Longview, TX 75602; 4108 Judson Rd, Longview, TX 75605; 2301 Mobberly Ave, Longview, TX 7560; 22421 Gilmer Rd, Longview, TX 75604; and 1420 S McDonald St. McKinney, TX 75069; and 3300 East George Richey Road Longview, TX 75605.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

8. Nearby Systems repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the Paragraphs above as though fully set forth in their entirety.

9. This is an action for infringement of a United States patent arising under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, and 284–285, among others. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of the action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and § 1338(a).

10. Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and general personal jurisdiction under due process due at least to Defendant's substantial business in this judicial district, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business,

¹ See *Store Locator*, DOLLAR GENERAL, <https://www.dollargeneral.com/store-locator>; see also *Texas, Store Directory*, DOLLAR GENERAL, <https://www.dollargeneral.com/store-directory/tx>.

engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and in this district.

11. Specifically, Defendant intends to do and does business in, has committed acts of infringement in, and continues to commit acts of infringement in this District directly, and offers its services, including those accused of infringement here, to customers and potential customers located in Texas, including in this District.

12. Defendant maintains a regular and established place of business in this District, including but not limited to the Dollar General Distribution Center located at 3300 East George Richey Road, Longview, Texas 75605. *See Distribution Centers*, DOLLAR GENERAL, <https://careers.dollargeneral.com/distribution-centers/>; *see also Texas, Store Directory*, DOLLAR GENERAL, <https://www.dollargeneral.com/store-directory/tx>.

13. Defendant commits acts of infringement in this District, including, but not limited to, use of the Accused Products identified below.

14. Therefore, venue is proper against Defendant in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b) because it has established and maintained a regular place of business in this District and has committed acts of patent infringement in this District.

THE ACCUSED PRODUCTS

15. Nearby Systems repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the Paragraphs above as though fully set forth in their entirety.

16. Based upon public information, Defendant owns, operates, advertises, and/or controls the website <https://www.dollargeneral.com/> through which it advertises, sells, offers to sell, provides and/or educates customers about its products and services that provide infringing systems including without limitation the “Dollar General App.” **Exhibit D.**

17. The “Dollar General App” is made available by Defendant for download through smartphone app providers. *See* **Exhibit E**, and **Exhibit F**.

18. Defendant uses, causes to be used, sells, offers for sale, provides, supplies, or distributes one or more mobile device applications, including in particular the Dollar General App, (the “**Accused Products**”) that are designed to allow Defendant’s customers to locate stores and/or manage their accounts after locating and ordering from the closest Dollar General location. *See* **Exhibit G**, **Exhibit H**, and **Exhibit I** (Plaintiff’s Evidence of Use for the Asserted Patents).

COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 9,532,164

19. Nearby Systems repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the Paragraphs above as though fully set forth in their entirety.

20. The USPTO duly issued U.S. Patent No. 9,532,164 (the “’164 patent”) on December 27, 2016 after full and fair examination of Application No. 13/987,520 which was filed August 3, 2013 and was a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/974,258. A true and correct copy of the ’164 patent is attached as **Ex. A**.

21. The claims of the ’164 patent are not directed to an abstract idea and are not limited to well-understood, routine, or conventional activity. Rather, the claimed inventions include inventive components that improve upon the function and operation of mapping systems by, for example, combining mappable data from disparate sources onto a digital map in a mapping application and may include a second set of mappable content, found outside the mapping application, that may be transmitted to the mapping application for mapping in conjunction with any of the existing (*i.e.* previously-displayed) mapping content.

22. The written description of the ’164 patent describes in technical detail each limitation of the claims, allowing a skilled artisan to understand the scope of the claims and how the non-

conventional and non-generic combination of claim limitations is patently distinct from and improved upon what may have been considered conventional or generic in the art at the time of the invention.

23. Nearby Systems owns all substantial rights, interest, and title in and to the '164 patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce it against infringers and to collect damages for all relevant times.

24. Nearby Systems or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the '164 patent.

25. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe one or more claims of the '164 patent by using, selling, offering to sell, providing, supplying, or distributing the Accused Products.

26. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claim 1 of the '164 patent, as detailed in Attachment G to Plaintiff's Evidence of Use, which is incorporated by reference herein and attached as **Ex. G**.

27. For example, as exemplified in **Ex. G**, the Accused Products (including the Dollar General App) provide a system and method for displaying map information on a mobile device (such as a smartphone or internet-enabled tablet) to obtain the data to display text and maps that present information to allow a mobile device user to identify and navigate to locations offering Defendant's products.

28. Since at least the time of receiving the original complaint in this action, Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '164 patent by inducing others to directly infringe its claims. Defendant has induced and continues to induce customers and end-

users, including, but not limited to, Defendant's customers, employees, partners, or contractors, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '164 patent by providing use of the Accused Products. Defendant took active steps, directly or through contractual relationships with others, with the specific intent to cause them to use the Accused Products in a manner that infringes one or more claims of the '164 patent, including, for example, claim 1. Such steps by Defendant included, among other things, advising or directing customers, personnel, contractors, or end-users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner; advertising and promoting the use of the Accused Products in an infringing manner; or distributing instructions that guide users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner. Defendant is performing these steps, which constitute induced infringement with the knowledge of the '164 patent and with the knowledge that the induced acts constitute infringement. Defendant is aware that the normal and customary use of the Accused Products by others would infringe the '164 patent. Defendant's inducement is ongoing. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

29. Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe by contributing to the infringement of the '164 patent. Defendant has contributed and continues to contribute to the direct infringement of the '164 patent by its customers, personnel, and contractors. The Accused Products have special features that are specially designed to be used in an infringing way and that have no substantial uses other than ones that infringe one or more claims of the '164 patent, including, for example, claim 1. The special features constitute a material part of the invention of one or more of the claims of the '164 patent and are not staple articles of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use. Defendant's contributory infringement is ongoing. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

30. Defendant has knowledge of the '164 patent at least as of the date when each was notified of the filing of this action.

31. Furthermore, on information and belief, Defendant has a policy or practice of not reviewing the patents of others, including instructing its employees to not review the patents of others, and thus has been willfully blind of Nearby Systems' patent rights.

32. Defendant's actions are at least objectively reckless as to the risk of infringing a valid patent and this objective risk was either known or should have been known by Defendant.

33. Defendant's infringement of the '164 patent is, has been, and continues to be willful, intentional, deliberate, or in conscious disregard of Nearby Systems' rights under the patent.

34. Nearby Systems has been damaged as a result of the infringing conduct by Defendant alleged above. Thus, Defendant is liable to Nearby Systems in an amount that compensates it for such infringements, which by law cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

35. Nearby Systems has suffered irreparable harm, through its loss of market share and goodwill, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Nearby Systems has and will continue to suffer this harm by virtue of Defendant's infringement of the '164 patent. Defendant's actions have interfered with and will interfere with Nearby Systems' ability to license technology. The balance of hardships favors Nearby Systems' ability to commercialize its own ideas and technology. The public interest in allowing Nearby Systems to enforce its right to exclude outweighs other public interests, which supports injunctive relief in this case.

COUNT II: INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 10,469,980

36. Nearby Systems repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the Paragraphs above as though fully set forth in their entirety.

37. The USPTO duly issued U.S. Patent No. 10,469,980 (the “’980 patent”) on November 5, 2019 after full and fair examination of Application No. 15/346,599 which was filed November 8, 2016 and was a continuation of Application No. 13/987,520 (which ripened into the ’164 patent). A true and correct copy of the ’980 patent is attached as **Ex. B**.

38. The claims of the ’980 patent are not directed to an abstract idea and are not limited to well-understood, routine, or conventional activity. Rather, the claimed inventions include inventive components that improve upon the function and operation of mapping systems by, for example, combining mappable data from disparate sources onto a digital map in a mapping application and may include a second set of mappable content, found outside the mapping application, that may be transmitted to the mapping application for mapping in conjunction with any of the existing (*i.e.*, previously-displayed) mapping content.

39. The written description of the ’980 patent describes in technical detail each limitation of the claims, allowing a skilled artisan to understand the scope of the claims and how the non-conventional and non-generic combination of claim limitations is patently distinct from and improved upon what may have been considered conventional or generic in the art at the time of the invention.

40. Nearby Systems owns all substantial rights, interest, and title in and to the ’980 patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce it against infringers and to collect damages for all relevant times.

41. Nearby Systems or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the ’980 patent.

42. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe one or more claims of the '980 patent by using, selling, offering to sell, providing, supplying, or distributing the Accused Products.

43. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claim 1 of the '980 patent, as detailed in Attachment H to Plaintiff's Evidence of Use, which is incorporated by reference herein and attached as **Ex. H**.

44. For example, as detailed in **Ex. H**, the Accused Products (including the Dollar General app) provide Defendant's customers a system and method for displaying map information on a mobile device (such as a smartphone or internet-enabled tablet) to obtain the data to display text and maps that present information to allow the mobile device user to identify and navigate to locations offering Defendant's products. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

45. Since at least the time of receiving the original complaint in this action, Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '980 patent by inducing others to directly infringe its claims. Defendant has induced and continues to induce customers and end-users, including, but not limited to, Defendant's customers, employees, partners, or contractors, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '980 patent by providing or requiring use of the Accused Products. Defendant took active steps, directly or through contractual relationships with others, with the specific intent to cause them to use the Accused Products in a manner that infringes one or more claims of the '980 patent, including, for example, claim 1. Such steps by Defendant included, among other things, advising or directing customers, personnel, contractors, or end-users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner; advertising and promoting the use of the Accused Products in an infringing manner; or distributing instructions that guide users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner. Defendant is

performing these steps, which constitute induced infringement with the knowledge of the '980 patent and with the knowledge that the induced acts constitute infringement. Defendant is aware that the normal and customary use of the Accused Products by others would infringe the '980 patent. Defendant's inducement is ongoing. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

46. Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe by contributing to the infringement of the '980 patent. Defendant has contributed and continues to contribute to the direct infringement of the '980 patent by its customers, personnel, and contractors. The Accused Products have special features that are specially designed to be used in an infringing way and that have no substantial uses other than ones that infringe one or more claims of the '980 patent, including, for example, claim 1. The special features constitute a material part of the invention of one or more of the claims of the '980 patent and are not staple articles of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use. Defendant's contributory infringement is ongoing. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

47. Defendant has had knowledge of the '980 patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action.

48. Furthermore, on information and belief, Defendant has a policy or practice of not reviewing the patents of others, including instructing its employees to not review the patents of others, and thus has been willfully blind of Nearby Systems' patent rights.

49. Defendant's actions are at least objectively reckless as to the risk of infringing a valid patent and this objective risk was either known or should have been known by Defendant.

50. Defendant's infringement of the '980 patent is, has been, and continues to be willful, intentional, deliberate, or in conscious disregard of Nearby Systems' rights under the patent.

51. Nearby Systems has been damaged as a result of the infringing conduct by Defendant alleged above. Thus, Defendant is liable to Nearby Systems in an amount that compensates it for such infringements, which by law cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

52. Nearby Systems has suffered irreparable harm, through its loss of market share and goodwill, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Nearby Systems has and will continue to suffer this harm by virtue of Defendant's infringement of the '980 patent. Defendant's actions have interfered with and will interfere with Nearby Systems' ability to license technology. The balance of hardships favors Nearby Systems' ability to commercialize its own ideas and technology. The public interest in allowing Nearby Systems to enforce its right to exclude outweighs other public interests, which supports injunctive relief in this case.

COUNT III: INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 11,937,145

53. Nearby Systems repeats and re-alleges the allegations in the Paragraphs above as though fully set forth in their entirety.

54. The USPTO duly issued U.S. Patent No. 11,937,145 (the "'145 patent") on March 19, 2024 after full and fair examination of Application No. 16/570,298 which was filed September 13, 2019 and was a continuation of Application No. 13/987,520 (which ripened into the '164 patent). A true and correct copy of the '145 patent is attached as **Ex. C**.

55. The claims of the '145 patent are not directed to an abstract idea and are not limited to well-understood, routine, or conventional activity. Rather, the claimed inventions include inventive components that improve upon the function and operation of mapping systems by, for example, combining mappable data from disparate sources onto a digital map in a mapping application and may include a second set of mappable content, found outside the mapping

application, that may be transmitted to the mapping application for mapping in conjunction with any of the existing (*i.e.*, previously-displayed) mapping content.

56. The written description of the '145 patent describes in technical detail each limitation of the claims, allowing a skilled artisan to understand the scope of the claims and how the non-conventional and non-generic combination of claim limitations is patently distinct from and improved upon what may have been considered conventional or generic in the art at the time of the invention.

57. Nearby Systems owns all substantial rights, interest, and title in and to the '145 patent, including the sole and exclusive right to prosecute this action and enforce it against infringers and to collect damages for all relevant times.

58. Nearby Systems or its predecessors-in-interest have satisfied all statutory obligations required to collect pre-filing damages for the full period allowed by law for infringement of the '145 patent.

59. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe one or more claims of the '145 patent by using, selling, offering to sell, providing, supplying, or distributing the Accused Products.

60. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claim 1 of the '145 patent, as detailed in Attachment I to Plaintiff's Evidence of Use, which is incorporated by reference herein and attached as **Ex. I**.

61. For example, as detailed in **Ex. I**, the Accused Products (including the Dollar General app) provide Defendant's customers a system and method for displaying map information on a mobile device (such as a smartphone or internet-enabled tablet) to obtain the data to display text

and maps that present information to allow the mobile device user to identify and navigate to locations offering Defendant's products. *See* **Ex. D**, **Ex. E**, and **Ex. F**.

62. Since at least the time of receiving the original complaint in this action, Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '145 patent by inducing others to directly infringe its claims. Defendant has induced and continues to induce customers and end-users, including, but not limited to, Defendant's customers, employees, partners, or contractors, to directly infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, the '145 patent by providing or requiring use of the Accused Products. Defendant took active steps, directly or through contractual relationships with others, with the specific intent to cause them to use the Accused Products in a manner that infringes one or more claims of the '145 patent, including, for example, claim 1. Such steps by Defendant included, among other things, advising or directing customers, personnel, contractors, or end-users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner; advertising and promoting the use of the Accused Products in an infringing manner; or distributing instructions that guide users to use the Accused Products in an infringing manner. Defendant is performing these steps, which constitute induced infringement with the knowledge of the '145 patent and with the knowledge that the induced acts constitute infringement. Defendant is aware that the normal and customary use of the Accused Products by others would infringe the '145 patent. Defendant's inducement is ongoing. *See* **Ex. D**, **Ex. E**, and **Ex. F**.

63. Defendant has also indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe by contributing to the infringement of the '145 patent. Defendant has contributed and continues to contribute to the direct infringement of the '145 patent by its customers, personnel, and contractors. The Accused Products have special features that are specially designed to be used in an infringing way and that have no substantial uses other than ones that infringe one or more claims of the '145

patent, including, for example, claim 1. The special features constitute a material part of the invention of one or more of the claims of the '145 patent and are not staple articles of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use. Defendant's contributory infringement is ongoing. *See Ex. D, Ex. E, and Ex. F.*

64. Defendant has had knowledge of the '145 patent at least as of the date when it was notified of the filing of this action.

65. Furthermore, on information and belief, Defendant has a policy or practice of not reviewing the patents of others, including instructing its employees to not review the patents of others, and thus has been willfully blind of Nearby Systems' patent rights.

66. Defendant's actions are at least objectively reckless as to the risk of infringing a valid patent and this objective risk was either known or should have been known by Defendant.

67. Defendant's infringement of the '145 patent is, has been, and continues to be willful, intentional, deliberate, or in conscious disregard of Nearby Systems' rights under the patent.

68. Nearby Systems has been damaged as a result of the infringing conduct by Defendant alleged above. Thus, Defendant is liable to Nearby Systems in an amount that compensates it for such infringements, which by law cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

69. Nearby Systems has suffered irreparable harm, through its loss of market share and goodwill, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Nearby Systems has and will continue to suffer this harm by virtue of Defendant's infringement of the '145 patent. Defendant's actions have interfered with and will interfere with Nearby Systems' ability to license technology. The balance of hardships favors Nearby Systems' ability to commercialize its own ideas and

technology. The public interest in allowing Nearby Systems to enforce its right to exclude outweighs other public interests, which supports injunctive relief in this case.

JURY DEMAND

Nearby Systems hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable by right.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Nearby Systems requests that the Court find in its favor and against Defendant, and that the Court grant Nearby Systems the following relief:

- a. Judgment that one or more claims of each of the Asserted Patents has been infringed, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by Defendant or others acting in concert therewith;
- b. A permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its officers, directors, agents, servants, affiliates, employees, divisions, branches, subsidiaries, parents, and all others acting in concert therewith from infringement of the '164 patent, the '980 patent, and the '145 patent; or, in the alternative, an award of a reasonable ongoing royalty for future infringement of the '164 patent, the '980 patent, and the '145 patent by such entities;
- c. Judgment that Defendant accounts for and pays to Nearby Systems all damages to and costs incurred by it because of Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- d. Judgment that Defendant's infringements be found willful as to the '164 patent, the '980 patent, and the '145 patent, and that the Court award treble damages for the period of such willful infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

- e. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages caused by Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- f. That this Court declare this an exceptional case and award Nearby Systems its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- g. That this Court enjoin Defendant's further infringement of the '164 patent, the '980 patent, and the '145 patent; and
- h. All other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: April 3, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Jonathan L. Hardt

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Attorneys for Plaintiff NEARBY SYSTEMS LLC

*Admitted to the Eastern District of Texas

List Of Exhibits

- A. U.S. Patent No. 9,532,164
- B. U.S. Patent No. 10,469,980
- C. U.S. Patent No. 11,937,145
- D. Webpage: Dollar General Offers Its Mobile App
- E. Webpage: Dollar General App Available at the App Store
- F. Webpage: Dollar General App Available at Google Play
- G. Plaintiff's Exemplary Evidence of Use Regarding U.S. Patent No. 9,532,164
- H. Plaintiff's Exemplary Evidence of Use Regarding U.S. Patent No. 10,469,980
- I. Plaintiff's Exemplary Evidence of Use Regarding U.S. Patent No. 11,937,145